



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.								
10/721,009	11/24/2003	Mahesh Rajagopalan	03-1014	5652								
25537 VERIZON PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1515 N. COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 500 ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909	7590 10/02/2008		<table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">EXAMINER</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN</td></tr><tr><td>ART UNIT</td><td>PAPER NUMBER</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">2614</td></tr></table>		EXAMINER		ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2614	
EXAMINER												
ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN												
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER											
2614												
			<table border="1"><tr><td>NOTIFICATION DATE</td><td>DELIVERY MODE</td></tr><tr><td>10/02/2008</td><td>ELECTRONIC</td></tr></table>		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	10/02/2008	ELECTRONIC				
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE											
10/02/2008	ELECTRONIC											

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@verizon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,009

Applicant(s)

RAJAGOPALAN ET AL.

Examiner

THJUAN K. ADDY

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29, 31-59, 61, 62 and 64-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/10/2008; 07/21/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on June 18, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-69 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The invention as claimed is not disclosed nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record. As to independent claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the recited method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium encoded with instructions capable of being executed by a computer for establishing a computer enhanced conference call comprising establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration based on the response, **the collaboration excluding at least one conference user that is not authorized to participate in the collaboration but participates in the conference call**. No prior art was found that discloses or teaches this limitation of claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-29, 31-59, 61, 62, and 64-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doganata et al. (US 6,798,753), in view of Musa (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2003/0208541 A1).

In regards to claims 1, 14, 27, 31, 44, 57, 61, 65, and 66, Doganata discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); contacting conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail) associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response (See col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Doganata, however, does not

disclose establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration. Musa, however, does disclose establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 2-3, paragraph [0021] – [0022] and pg. 3, paragraph [0025]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature within the method, as a way of providing a method for handheld applications and users of handheld applications to implement wireless collaboration conferencing while enforcing the constraints of wireless handheld computers, and providing a set of services.

6. In regards to claims 2, 18, 32, and 48, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises: scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event (See col. 4 lines 16-35).

7. In regards to claims 3, 19, 33, and 49, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application (See Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) associated with the initiating user (See col. 4 lines 16-35).

8. In regards to claims 4, 20, 34, and 50, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39).

9. In regards to claims 5, 21, 35, and 51, Doganata discloses the method and

apparatus, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users comprises: collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure (See Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure (See Fig. 2 and personal address book 33) based on the conference user identifiers (See col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

10. In regards to claims 6, 22, 36, and 52, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application (e.g., calendar view user interface 22) and the second data structure comprises an address book listing (e.g., personal address book 33) at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information (See col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

11. In regards to claims 7, 23, 37, and 53, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein contacting the conference users comprises: collecting contact information associated with the conference users; and establishing a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information (See col. 6 lines 3-9).

12. In regards to claims 8, 24, 38, and 54, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and establishing a communication connection comprises: dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users (See col. 6 lines 3-9).

13. In regards to claims 9, 25, 39, and 55, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein contacting the conference users comprises: sending notifications (e.g., via e-mail) of a computer-enhanced conference call request to the conference users (See col. 5-6 lines 66-2).

14. In regards to claims 10 and 40, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein establishing a conference call comprises: connecting calls to devices of conference users based on responses to the notifications (See col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54).

15. In regards to claims 11 and 41, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein connecting comprises: bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call request (See col. 5 lines 16-35).

16. In regards to claims 12, 26, 42, and 56, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call request by at least one of: receiving a communication from a conference user to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user; **receiving a communication declining the request without any further processing by a conference user**; receiving a communication from a conference user to set an alternate contact telephone number; and receiving a communication from a conference user to

set a period of time in which the conference user is to be contacted again (See col. 5 lines 33-35).

17. In regards to claims 13 and 43, Doganata discloses the method and apparatus, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (See col. 6 lines 3-16).

18. In regards to claims 15, 28, 45, and 58, Doganata discloses the method, wherein the sending comprises: retrieving data corresponding to the conference users; selecting devices associated with the conference users to receive the notification based on the retrieved data; and providing the notification to the selected devices for display on the selected devices (See col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 5-6 lines 66-2).

19. In regards to claims 16, 29, 46, and 59, Doganata discloses all of claims 16, 29, 46, and 59 limitations, except the method and apparatus, comprising receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration. Musa, however, does disclose receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 3, paragraph [0026]).

20. In regards to claims 17, 47, 62, and 67, Doganata discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); contacting conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the

participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail) associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (See col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Doganata, however, does not disclose establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration. Musa, however, does disclose establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration (See pg. 2-3, paragraph [0021] – [0022] and pg. 3, paragraph [0025]).

21. In regards to claim 64, Doganata discloses a method for participating in a computer-enhanced conference call automatically established by at least one or more communication entity (See Abstract), comprising: scheduling a computer-enhanced conference call at a predetermined time in the future (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39) using a calendar application (See Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22), wherein scheduling includes identifying conference users that are to participate in the computer-enhanced conference call (See col. 4 lines 16-35); and at the predetermined time: receiving an indication that a computer-enhanced

conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled computer-enhanced conference call, and receiving an indication that at least one conference user has either joined or declined to join the computer-enhanced conference call (See col. 5 lines 16-29). Doganata, however, does not disclose identifying conference users that are authorized to participate in a collaboration corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call. Musa, however, does disclose identifying conference users that are authorized to participate in a collaboration corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call (See pg. 2-3, paragraph [0021] – [0022] and pg. 3, paragraph [0025]).

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-69 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

23. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

24. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

27. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614